



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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MCO 5600.20N
C 398
21 Jun 2004

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5600.20N

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM

Ref: (a) Title 10, U.S. Code
(b) Joint Pub 0-2
(c) Joint Pub 1-01
(d) MCO 5600.48B

Encl: (1) Doctrinal Publications Relationships
(2) Warfighting Publications Development Responsibilities
(3) Warfighting Publications Development and Review Procedures
(4) Maintenance and Control of Warfighting Publications

1. Situation. The Marine Corps requires warfighting doctrine. The Secretary of Defense and references (a) and (b) assign certain responsibilities to the Marine Corps. These responsibilities include the development of doctrine; tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP); and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations, as well as the development and preparation of doctrinal and procedural publications. Reference (c) implements the Joint Doctrine Master Plan and establishes procedures for the development of joint doctrine. Reference (d) sets the guidelines for United States Marine Corps (USMC) participation in joint doctrine development. The Deputy Commandant for Combat Development (DC CD) is delegated to perform these responsibilities to develop Marine Corps doctrine and to contribute to the development of joint doctrine for the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC). MCBul 5600 series lists existing doctrine warfighting publications and publications under development.

2. Cancellation. MCO 5600.20M.

3. Mission. To establish authority, assign responsibilities, and identify relationships within the Marine Corps for the Warfighting Publications System and to implement the development, review, and maintenance processes for warfighting publications.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. This Order provides the basis for developing, coordinating, publishing, and maintaining Marine Corps doctrine and that doctrine peculiar to landing forces.

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(2) Concept of Operations. Doctrinal proponents will create and maintain TTP's in accordance with enclosures (1) through (4).

b. Subordinate Element Missions. Specific responsibilities are outlined in enclosure (2).

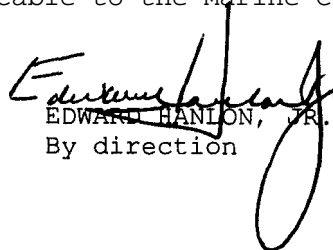
c. Coordinating Instructions. The CMC retains the prerogative to approve Marine Corps doctrine publications and to approve joint publications for the Marine Corps.

5. Administration and Logistics. Recommended changes to this Order should be submitted to DC CD (C 398).

6. Command and Signal

a. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.

b. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.


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By direction

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Doctrinal Publications Relationships

1. General. This enclosure describes Marine Corps doctrine publications and other related publications.

2. International Standardization Agreements

a. Marine Corps policy regarding participation in international doctrine matters is contained in the current edition of Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5711.1, *U.S. Marine Corps Procedures for Participation in the International Standardization Process*.

b. The United States has ratified a broad range of agreements on military matters with allied nations. These agreements are called international standardization agreements (ISA). These agreements are not distributed to units but are maintained in central repositories. Within the Marine Corps, these agreements are maintained by the Doctrine Division, MCCDC (C 3985).

c. After national ratification and service subscription, the provisions of ISA's are implemented by incorporating them into Marine Corps doctrine publications per the current edition of MCO 5711.1, *U.S. Marine Corps Procedures for Participation in the International Standardization Process*.

3. Allied Joint Publications (AJP). The United States has ratified AJP's that address doctrine, tactics, intelligence, training and exercise procedures, and security rules for use when operating with other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member nations. AJP's are intended for use at all levels when involved in operations or exercises with NATO member nations. When in use, AJP's must be checked for national ratification details as well as for possible reservations. It cannot be assumed that the provisions of all AJP's are followed by all NATO nations. When the United States has ratified an AJP, and there is no Marine Corps reservation recorded, that AJP is binding on Marine Corps participants in a multinational operation or exercise.

4. Joint, Multi-Service, and Service Publications

a. Policy and procedures regarding participation in joint and multi-Service doctrine and joint TTP matters are contained in Joint Publication (JP) 1-01, *Joint Publication System*, and the current edition of MCO 5600.48, *U.S. Marine Corps Procedures for the Participation in Development of Joint Doctrine, Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, and Multi-Service Publications*.

b. Joint Publications. JP's are promulgated by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide general principles and procedural guidance directing the activities and performance of the military departments, unified and specified commands, and other authorized agencies. JP's are used to publish doctrine and procedures for specific types of joint operations not otherwise assigned to an individual Military Service as specified in JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces*. They are also used to publish guidance for informational and planning purposes. These doctrine publications are developed by the Military Services and the combatant commanders unified and

specified commands. They are approved and promulgated by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, in consultation with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. JP's are based on the provisions of JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces*, and JP 1-01, *Joint Publication System*, and provide guidelines for the coordinated employment of forces in joint operations. To satisfy the responsibilities assigned to the Marine Corps in Title 10, US Code, DOD Directive 5100.1, *Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components*, and JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces*, the Marine Corps develops joint doctrine for landing forces in coordination with the other Military Services. This includes the doctrine, TTP, and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations. Formerly designated Landing Force Manuals, these publications are now promulgated as JP's.

c. Multi-Service Publications. These publications contain doctrine and TTP applicable to at least two military services. Multi-Service publications guide the employment of forces in coordinated action toward a common objective. Each of the authenticating Military Services assigns the publication its own doctrinal designation. Multi-Service publications authenticated by the Marine Corps are listed in MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

d. Single Service Publications. These are publications that address the doctrine and TTP of the promulgating Military Service. The other Military Services are authorized to use these manuals insofar as they facilitate their own roles and functions.

5. Doctrinal Publications. Currently, doctrine publications that address Marine Corps doctrine and TTP are Marine Corps doctrinal publications (MCDP), Marine Corps warfighting publications (MCWP), or Marine Corps reference publications (MCRP).

a. MCDP's. Higher order doctrine containing the fundamental and enduring beliefs of warfighting and the guiding doctrine for the conduct of major warfighting activities.

b. MCWP's. More narrowly focused than MCDP's, publications promulgated as MCWP's will contain the doctrine and TTP utilized by the Marine Corps in the prosecution of war or other assigned missions.

c. MCRP's. Publications containing general reference and historical material. MCRP's contain more specific/detailed TTP than the MCWP's.

6. Numbering System. All Marine Corps doctrine publications are numbered in the following manner:

a. MCDP's. Capstone/Keystone publications, which include all of the MCDP's, as follows:

- MCDP 1, *Warfighting*
- MCDP 1-1, *Strategy*
- MCDP 1-2, *Campaigning*
- MCDP 1-3, *Tactics*
- MCDP 3, *Expeditionary Operations*
- MCDP 4, *Logistics*

MCDP 2, *Intelligence*
MCDP 5, *Planning*
MCDP 6, *Command and Control*
MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*

b. MCWP's. MCWP's will be tiered in five subordinate series as follows:

MCWP 2 Series - Intelligence Operations
MCWP 3 Series - Training, Ground Combat Operations, Aviation
Operations, Type Operations, and MAGTF Operations
MCWP 4 Series - Logistics Operations
MCWP 5 Series - Marine Corps Planning Process
MCWP 6 Series - Command Series

c. MCRP's. MCRP's are given the same number as the parent MCWP with an alpha designator. (For example; MCWP 5-1.1, *Aviation Planning*, and MCRP 5-1.1A, *Aviation Planning Documents*.)

A complete listing can be found at <https://www.doctrine.usmc.mil>.

7. Designation of Other Service Manuals. The following designations are used by the other Military Services.

a. Field Manuals (FM). The development and publication of doctrine for land warfare is the responsibility of the US Army. This doctrine and associated TTP are published in a series of manuals designated as FM's. FM's having direct applications to the Marine Corps carry the designation of MCWP or MCRP and are listed in the current edition of MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

b. Naval Doctrine Publications/Naval Warfare Publications (NDP/NWP). The US Navy is charged with developing and publishing doctrine for naval air, surface, and subsurface warfare. The Navy coordinates with the Marine Corps for development of doctrine for amphibious operations. NDP's/NWP's which are specifically authorized for use by and distributed to the Marine Corps are listed in the current editions of Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 5605.19, *Requirements List of Communications and Tactical Warfare Publications for the Operating Forces of the Navy, Unified and Specified Commands*. A complete listing of NDP's/NWP's may be found in NWP 0, *Naval Warfare*. NDP's/NWP's having direct application to the Marine Corps also carry the designation of MCWP or MCRP, as appropriate, and are listed in the MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

c. Air Force Manuals (AFM) and Air Force Regulations. The US Air Force is charged with developing and publishing the doctrine for sustained combat operations in the air and for the defense of the United States against air attack. AFM's which have direct application to the Marine Corps also carry the designation of MCWP or MCRP, as appropriate, and are listed in the MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

8. Associated Publications. Associated publications are those having some relationship to warfighting publications but which have not been designated

warfighting publications. This may be due to the nature of the material or the information should be made available to the Marine Corps for whatever use readers may find it applicable. Some associated publications are promulgated by other Services. MCO P5600.31, *The Marine Corps Publications and Printing Regulations*, is an example of an associated publication that is unsuitable to include in the Warfighting Publication System. MCO P5600.31 is important because it explains how to order publications, but it does not contain doctrine or TTP that relate to warfighting. Whatever the basis, it is important to note that these publications are not Marine Corps warfighting publications. They are noted below because, in many cases, they are associated with, and often complement, warfighting publications.

a. Marine Corps Directives System. MCO 5215.1H, publishes the policies and standards for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps directives system.

b. Marine Corps Publications and Printing Regulations. MCO P5600.31G with change 3, publishes instructions for ordering publications.

c. Instructional Publications (IP). IP's (for internal MCCDC instructional purposes only) and Marine Corps Institute texts are published by DC CD and are specifically intended for use in education and training. They are based on doctrine but are not restricted merely to repeating published doctrinal material. Where the contents of these texts deviate from information in approved doctrinal manuals, the text must clearly identify that it does so for purposes of student evaluation or as an adjunct to the learning process.

d. Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System (MCCRES). MCCRES is a series of Marine Corps orders (in the 3501 series) that provides force commanders with a diagnostic training-evaluation system to measure unit capability in relation to an operational mission. MCCRES data are analyzed at various command levels to identify Marine Corps-wide training trends.

e. Individual Training Standards (ITS) Systems. ITS is a series of Marine Corps orders (in the 1510 series) that provides guidance to unit commanders and training institutions relative to training responsibilities for each occupational field. They identify, by MOS, the job tasks that require training, where the training is to be conducted, and the standards to which training should be directed.

f. Publications Issued by the Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTTCG/ME). These publications are titled either Joint Munitions Effectiveness Manuals (JMEM) or JTTCG/ME Special Reports. They are promulgated as MCWP's and MCRP's in the 4-7, 5-2, 6-14, and 10 series. JMEM's and JTTCG/ME Special Reports are not stocked in the Marine Corps supply system. They are available to the Marine Corps by ordering from the JTTCG/ME Products Manager, OC-ALC/LGLUB, 7851 Arnold St, Suite 206, Tinker AFB, OK 73145-5979. To contact the publications manager by telephone, call DSN 336-5468/5568/2707, commercial (405) 736-5468/5568/2707.

Warfighting Publications Development Responsibilities

1. General

a. The development of doctrinal publications is a dynamic, evolutionary process rather than a revolutionary one. As a result, each step of the process is justified and validated before a doctrinal publication is approved. To be useful, doctrine cannot be written and refined in a vacuum. It must set forth the experience and thinking of its practitioners, the Operating Forces, as well as theoretical and practical knowledge resident in Marine Corps formal schools.

b. The development of warfighting publications, including the initiation of doctrinal concepts, is primarily the responsibility of the doctrine proponents. A doctrinal concept, the precursor of doctrine, is defined as an untested, general idea of how something should be performed or employed.

c. Any command or individual who recognizes the need for a new warfighting publication should make a recommendation to DC CD (C 398) for consideration. DC CD (C 398) will refer the recommendation to the appropriate doctrine proponent who will evaluate the recommendation and determine if it should be developed further.

2. Responsibilities

a. DC CD. Is the designated authority for both the development and maintenance of Marine Corps Service doctrine and the coordinating authority for Marine Corps participation in the development of multinational, joint, and multi-Service doctrine. His responsibilities include:

(1) Responsibility for Service doctrine matters within the Marine Corps. This responsibility includes:

(a) Acting as the USMC coordinator for Marine Corps service doctrine matters.

(b) Assigning doctrine proponents for Marine Corps doctrine publications.

(c) Promulgating Marine Corps Bulletins in the 5600 and 5603 series to provide periodic updates of current Marine Corps doctrine and associated publications, and updating proponent assignments.

(2) Responsibility for developing, in coordination with the other military Services, the doctrine; TTP; and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations as required by Title 10, US Code, DOD 5100.1, *Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components*, and JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces*.

(3) Responsibility, as coordinating authority, for Marine Corps participation in doctrinal development with appropriate multinational, joint, multi-Service and military service agencies and commands as outlined in MCO 5711.1, *U.S. Marine Corps Procedures for Participation in the International Standardization Process*; MCO 5600.48, *U.S. Marine Corps*

Procedures for Participation in the Development of Joint Doctrine, Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, and Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures; and this Order.

(4) Promulgation of Marine Corps orders in the 5600 and 5711 series dealing with joint, multinational, multi-Service, and Marine Corps Service doctrine.

(5) Preparation and promulgation of Marine Corps doctrine publications; i.e., MCDP's, MCWP's, MCRP's, less those selected publications specifically reserved for approval by the CMC.

(6) Responsibility to monitor the staffing and review of warfighting publications and to resolve questions which arise in the staffing and review process.

b. Marine Forces. The Commanding Generals, Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic; Marine Corps Forces, Pacific; and Marine Corps Forces, Reserves are responsible for providing review comments to DC CD on warfighting publications.

c. Contributing Commands. Contributing commands are any commands other than Marine Forces that are selected to provide a cross-section of expertise in the development and review of warfighting publications. Contributing commands include:

- (1) Headquarters, US Marine Corps.
- (2) Commanders, Marine Corps Air Bases, East and West.
- (3) Commanding Generals, Marine Corps Bases, Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton, and Camp S.D. Butler.
- (4) Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command.
- (5) Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command.
- (6) Commanding General, Training and Education Command.
- (7) Commanding General, Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force Training Command.
- (8) Commanding Generals, Expeditionary Warfare Training Groups
- (9) Commanding Officer, Marine Air Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1.

d. US Marine Corps Representatives and Liaison Officers. All Marine Corps representatives and liaison officers, whether representing the Marine Corps or another military Service, shall monitor doctrinal matters and publications being discussed or prepared by the command to which they are assigned. They are to make recommendations on these doctrinal matters and publications to DC CD (C 398).

e. Organizational Commanders. Organizational commanders may provide comments on the contents of warfighting publications and maintain doctrinal publications per the instructions contained in enclosures (3) and (4).

Warfighting Publications Development and Review Procedures

1. General. The procedures used to prepare warfighting publications are similar to those used to prepare other publications. A single officer or group of officers drafts or reviews a publication. The draft is staffed to appropriate commands and the comments which result are incorporated, as appropriate, into the final copy. After a publication has been published, users identify ways to improve it. These suggestions are submitted to Doctrine Division, MCCDC. Each publication is reviewed periodically. This review starts the cycle again. During the review, the suggestions submitted by users of the publication are considered. Reviews of publications may be scheduled well in advance (e.g., the result of a decision to review a particular publication once every 4 years for MCWP's and MCRP's, and every 8 years for MCDP's) or may be held because of a realization that a particular publication needs to be reviewed immediately.

2. Initial Publication Development. The requirement for a new publication may arise from recommendations from Marine Forces, the Expeditionary Force Development Center, or from commands listed in paragraph 2c of enclosure (2). During the initial development of a new warfighting publication, DC CD (C 398) will conduct field liaison visits and request comments and recommendations on outlines and initial drafts of warfighting publications. DC CD (C 398) may convene conferences or working groups to assist in the development of outlines and drafts for specific publications and provide coordinating drafts of publications under development to the Marine Corps Forces; Headquarters, US Marine Corps; and other appropriate commands listed in paragraph 2c of enclosure (2) for review. This process is essential to the orderly and timely development of warfighting publications. At the end of this review, the publication is prepared in its final form and published as an MCDP, MCWP, or MCRP, as appropriate.

3. Review of Existing Publications

a. Participants. Review of warfighting publications will include review by the Marine Forces; Headquarters, US Marine Corps; and other appropriate commands listed in paragraph 2c of enclosure (2). Liaison visits and conferences or working groups may be employed as part of the review process. The object of the review is to ensure factual accuracy; operational and tactical utility; consistency with joint, multinational, and Marine Corps doctrine; and adherence to Marine Corps policy.

b. Procedures. When a review of a specific publication is initiated, a message will be promulgated by DC CD (C 398) soliciting comments. Comments on any MCWP or MCRP, however, are welcome at any time. Normally, MCWP's and MCRP's are reviewed every 4 years; MCDP's every 8 years. Once the review is completed, one of the following actions will be taken by DC CD:

(1) If no changes are required, the publication will remain in effect until a change or the cycle review period is warranted. A message announcing the review and its result will be promulgated.

(2) If minor revisions are required, a change to the publication will be promulgated.

(3) If major revisions are required, a coordinating draft of the revised publication will be developed and circulated for review and comment

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to the commands and agencies previously noted. Comments received will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the publication.

4. Conference Review. If a doctrine working group conference for a publication is called, it will be announced by DC CD (C 398). A schedule will be published for submitting agenda items and recommendations. After receiving the proposed agenda items and recommendations, DC CD (C 398) will establish and publish the conference or working group agenda and assign responsibility for those agenda items.

ENCLOSURE (3)

Maintenance and Control of Warfighting Publications

1. General

a. An organization's warfighting publications are a source of information on doctrine, TTP, organizational structures, and employment of equipment. Organizations authorized to hold warfighting publications should maintain them per instructions contained in MCO P5600.31, *Marine Corps Publications and Printing Regulations*. Mission requirements should determine what publications are ordered and maintained. Publications are a means to help facilitate mission accomplishment. Publication listings should be changed to facilitate mission accomplishment. A unit should not permit a shortage of publications that hinders mission accomplishment because the publications listing is no longer adequate. Publications listings are a unit's statement of publication needs and are the basis for the distribution of changes to and revisions of existing publications. Consequently, it is important that a unit properly maintain its publications listing.

b. Marine Corps units, both Regular and Reserve, shall maintain warfighting publications appropriate to the mission of the organization. Units should not hold copies of publications for which no current or anticipated need exists, except that each battalion, squadron, and larger units and each base, station, and air facility will maintain at least one copy (hard copy or electronic copy) of each MCWP and MCRP (less those currently designated as Joint Munitions Effectiveness Manuals) and those joint publications pertaining to expeditionary, amphibious, and landing force operations. Reserve units, at battalion/squadron level and higher, will ensure that publications required, but which are not on hand, are included on the unit's mobilization listing of publications.

c. A Marine Corps Bulletin in the 5600 series listing current Marine Corps warfighting publications is issued annually.

2. References (Current Editions). In addition to this Order, the following references apply:

a. Joint Pub 1-01, Joint Publication System (Joint Doctrine and Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (JTTP) Development Program), implements the Joint Doctrine Master Plan and provides a numerical index of Joint Publications.

b. MCO P5600.31, Marine Corps Publications and Printing Regulations, contains the guidelines for ordering doctrinal publications.

c. OPNAVINST 5605.19, Requirements List of Communications and Tactical Warfare (COMTAC) Publications for the Operating Forces of the Navy, Unified and Specified Commands; and US Elements of International Commands, publishes the requirements for holding COMTAC publications. Publications listed include Allied publications and naval warfare publications.

d. NPFC 2002D, Unabridged Navy Index of Publications and Forms, provides information necessary to order certain AJP's and NWP's.

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e. OPNAVINST 5510.1, Department of the Navy Information Security Program Regulation, provides guidance for classifying and safeguarding classified information.

f. NWP 0, Naval Warfare Documentation Guide, provides NWP review responsibilities and procedures and instructions for maintaining a naval warfare publications library.

g. MCO 5600.43, Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTCG/ME) Publications.

3. Distribution System. Electronic distribution of publication coordinating drafts will be made by MCB Quantico, VA through the Doctrine Division website. Upon completion of the review process, approved publications will be forwarded to HQMC (ARD) for printing. Distribution of approved publications will be established by DC CD (C 398) and accomplished through CG MCLB, Albany, GA.